



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center

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NEW NEMA UPDATE

NEMA Flood Response and Recovery Continues

The State Emergency Operations Center at **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)** continues its support of flood response along the Missouri and Platte rivers by providing assistance to local emergency management on a 24-hour basis and working with federal agencies in the recovery process.

- **ONE WEEK remains until the deadline for registering disaster-damage with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Oct. 11.** Homeowners, renters and business owners affected by the flooding between May 24 and Aug.1 are urged to register as soon as possible.
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy holders who suffered damage along the Missouri River have until Oct. 29, to file a proof of loss statement. For more information, policy holders are urged to contact their local flood insurance agent for specific information about their policy or claim. The National Flood Insurance Program's Call Center at 800-427-4661 also is available for answers.
- The FEMA/state Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) will close by the end of the week. The hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 1. The **Lincoln County DRC**, 1827 A St., North Platte, will close at 7 p.m. Wednesday (Oct. 5)
 2. The **Washington County DRC** at the Washington County Courthouse, 1555 Colfax St. will close at 7 p.m. Friday (Oct. 7)
- After the Disaster Recovery Centers close, help is still available by calling the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362** and selecting the helpline prompt. Survivors may check the status of their recovery process, get answers to questions and provide additional information toward their claim.
- Those who have already registered and their home or business was still flooded when the FEMA inspector assessed their damage need to call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (select the helpline prompt) and schedule a re-inspection.
- Survivors are urged to register with FEMA even if they have insurance, or are awaiting a settlement claim. In addition, if they have applied for assistance with the USDA, filed a claim with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, received assistance from local voluntary agencies, or have called the NEMA flood hotline to report their damage, they still need to register with FEMA in order to be considered for FEMA assistance.

Flood Damaged Structure Disposal

Guidance related to structure demolition, asbestos handling, open burning and solid waste disposal can be found at the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality website: <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/> by clicking on [Flooding in Nebraska: Environmental Guidance](#) or on the [NEMA flood page](#).

Tips For Preserving Flooded Valuable Items

Important papers and family records may be soaked by rising flood waters, but there are ways to recover and preserve them. Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Archives offer some tips that may help dry family papers.

- Many record materials will respond well to simple air drying as long as minor physical distortion is acceptable. Small quantities may be spread out on top of clean blotting material (paper toweling, etc.) in a cool dry location with plenty of air circulation.
- As long as materials are not too densely packed and active drying conditions are maintained, mold growth may be retarded. While high heat and harsh sunlight will dry records quickly, they may permanently damage record materials and should be avoided.
- Quantities too large to handle within the first 48 hours should be frozen either for defrosting and air drying at a later date, or for referral to a commercial drying vendor or preservation professional.

UPDATED River Levels — The National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service lists four flood stages: Major, Moderate, Flood and Action Stages. **Sites at Action Stage or above are:**

North Platte River

Lewellen, 7.41 feet – at Action Stage which is 7.5 to 8.5 feet

North Platte, 6.55 feet – at Major Flood Stage which is 6.4 feet and above

Platte River

Brady, 6.18 feet – at Action Stage which is 6 to 7.5 feet

Missouri River

Niobrara, 20.4 feet – is at Action Stage which is 21 to 23 feet

Brownville, 32.03 feet – is at Action Stage which is 31.5 to 33 feet

Rulo, 16.46 feet – is at Action Stage which is 15 to 17 feet

UPDATED Department of Roads Information

Hwy 136 is closed from Brownville as it runs EAST into MISSOURI due to flood damage on the highway. HWY 136 West from Brownville is open.

Hwy 159 is closed from Rulo as it runs EAST into MISSOURI due to flood damage on the highway. Hwy 159 West from Rulo is open.

Closed due to I-680 in Iowa being washed out by flood waters. This road will have to be rebuilt.

You can connect to I-29 NORTH from I-80 in Council Bluffs.

I-29 is **OPEN** from I-80 in Council Bluffs **NORTHWARD**.

I-29 South from I-80 in Council Bluffs remains **closed**.

Recommended Routes - You are always free to take any open route.

The Recommendations are passed along per requests by Kansas DOT & Iowa DOT

- From OMAHA - I-80 east into Iowa to I-35; Then take I-35 south into Missouri; **Continue on I-35 south to connect with I-435 into KC**; or for St. Joseph., MO get on Hwy 36 at Cameron MO, and head west to St. Joseph.
- Take I-80 west to Lincoln and get on Hwy 77 south into Kansas to I-70, then take I-70 east to KC;
- Hwy 77 South from Lincoln, NE through Beatrice, NE, and north from Kansas to Lincoln connecting to I-70 in Kansas
- Hwy 81 South from York, NE, connecting to I-70 in Kansas

Always check with the specific states you'll be traveling through to see what construction might be occurring on highways. Check all at www.safetravelusa.com



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)

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MEDIA ADVISORY: The next Joint Information Center update is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 6.